

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Sconset, Friday.

I sent you a postal yesterday night after sending my regular note. I think you will receive them both together. I send you with this a letter that came last night from Mamma and which I cannot resist showing you. I wonder if I ever shall write such nice letters as she does. There was no room on the card yesterday to tell you how glad I was to hear of your safe arrival and welcome at home. That ten mile walk was a good thing, I hope you will have many more such during your visit home. You see what Mamma says about my going home. Probably I shall be on my way there by the time you receive this, or very soon after. Cousin Mary says she is such disgusted at this arrangement, she expected me to stay longer. I said I was so glad, for I had felt as if my visit here had been a dreadful failure, I had been so stupid and utterly drained dry of any entertaining conversation. She looked sharply at me, and said perhaps I had told Mamma so, and so she summons me back! It was fortunate I could say no, and that I had thought this had been understood all along.

Mrs. Lander goes to Nantucket tomorrow and Monday leaves for Boston. It would be delightful if she could postpone her departure a day or two, then we could all go together. We all like Mrs. Lander very much, she is very bright and pleasant. We have only met her in bathing or walking, but tonight Cousin Mary and I call upon her. Poor little Gardiner is getting quite blind now, he cannot possibly open his left eye, and only uses the other with great difficulty. Poor little fellow, it is very hard for him and hurts his too, sometimes till he cries.

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The waves were very low today and the undertow proportionately weak, and we had a lovely time. I can swim two or three yards (1) but hate floating. One cannot see anything,

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and somehow it always feels safer if one can see what is coming. Cousin Mary swims and floats very gracefully. Cousin Sam goes into the water in a somersault, swims under water, dives, swims in a circle with only his feet moving etc., etc.

Goodbye now my darling Alec. I long to see you once more, but am content while your Mother and Father have you and you them. Please give them both my love.

Lovingly your, May.